

FOOTWEAR MOLDS

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

04-17-06 [0001] The present application is a continuation in part of U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 10/603126, entitled "BREATHABLE WORKSHOES AND METHODS FOR MANUFACTURING SUCH", filed on June 23, 2003^{now U.S. Patent No. 6,993,858} and assigned to an entity common herewith; and U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 10/602416, entitled "FOOTWEAR PIECES AND METHODS FOR MANUFACTURING SUCH", filed on June 23, 2003^{still pending} and assigned to an entity common herewith. The entirety of each of the aforementioned patent applications are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention is related to footwear, and in particular to footwear including straps.

[0003] The commonly known flip-flop has long been popular with consumers, however, it is often difficult to maintain the flip-flop secure to the foot. Thus, for applications where a person's shoes must be maintained secured to the foot, the flip-flop has proven to be unsatisfactory.

[0004] As a sandal typically includes a strap capable of securing the sandal to the foot, in some cases a sandal may prove satisfactory where the flip-flop fails. However, such sandals often do not provide the ease of use offered by the flip-flop. Further, such sandals are typically made of relatively slick material that does not grip well on, for example, wet floors.

[0005] Thus, there exists a need in the art to address these and other limitations.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Among other things, the present invention provides apparatus and methods for manufacturing footwear pieces. In various cases, the apparatus include a footwear form that includes a location mark corresponding to a location of a strap rivet. The footwear form is an inner portion of a footwear mold, and the footwear mold is comprised of an upper portion and a lower portion that at least substantially encompass the footwear form.

[0007] Some embodiments of the present invention provide footwear molds that include a footwear form with a location mark corresponding to the location of a strap rivet. Such a location mark can be, but is not limited to, a metal piece extending from the footwear form.